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ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

THE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS,
TECHNOLOGY, AND THE INTERNET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1801

March 31, 2011

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your participation and comments during our Net Neutrality hearing last month. I appreciated your comments as well as those of the other Commissioners.

Following up on that discussion, I write to ask for a briefing by your staff on the status of the Commission's investigation into Google's unauthorized interception of personal communications from Wi-Fi networks through its Street View vehicles. In my view, Google's data collection activities demonstrate an egregious disregard for personal privacy. Based on what I have heard, Google has admitted that for three years (2007-2010) its Street View vehicles captured and stored the private Wi-Fi communications of consumers around the world without notice to or consent from those individuals.

As you know, 37 state attorneys general are investigating Google's data collection activity as are more than a dozen foreign countries. In fact, just last week France issued its largest fine ever against a private company, fining Google for improperly collecting and storing sensitive consumer data. The FCC's investigation seems even more timely and relevant given yesterday's announcement by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) that Google used deceptive tactics and violated its own privacy promises to consumers when it launched its social network, Google Buzz, last year. I would appreciate an update on your efforts.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Legislative Director Megan Bel at (202) 225-3015.

Sincerely,



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 22, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Steve Scalise
U.S. House of Representatives
429 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Scalise:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's inquiry relating to Google's collection of communications from unsecured Wi-Fi networks throughout the United States. This matter is being handled by the FCC's Enforcement Bureau.

I cannot discuss specifics, but I can clarify that the Bureau's inquiry seeks to determine whether Google's actions were inconsistent with any rule or law within the Commission's jurisdiction. We are taking the issue of consumer privacy seriously and I am confident that the Bureau will consider fully all of the facts and applicable law as it conducts its work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski